

Puget Sound Partnership's Monitoring Program February 2008 Briefing Memo

... an aspect of the Strategic Science Program¹
... to be recommended as an element of the Action Agenda [RCW 90.71.290(1)]

Partnership Functions Served by Monitoring

- Adaptive management: revise implementation strategies every two years and revise the Action Agenda as needed [RCW 90.71.310(4)]
- Accountability: determine whether implementing entities are taking actions consistent with the action agenda and achieving the outcomes identified in the action agenda [RCW 90.71.350(2)]
- Action Agenda: Are we succeeding?
- Communication: Do citizens know about the status and threats?

Functions of the Monitoring Program

- Report on the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem using environmental indicators to measure performance of ecosystem recovery efforts
- Design and implement monitoring studies to develop indicators and other data
- Establish baselines of historic or current conditions of the ecosystem and threats
- Focus regional science capacity on data collection, information management, analysis, and synthesis to address key uncertainties about ecosystem-based management
- Maximize use of data, analyses, and syntheses developed by various implementing entities by establishing complementary study designs and common field, laboratory, and modeling protocols and guidelines

Reports from the Monitoring Program

- State of the Sound Report, includes "findings arising from the assessment and monitoring program" – November 1, 2009 / biennial
- Puget Sound Science Update – April 2010 / as needed

General Monitoring Questions

- Implementation and compliance: Are actions occurring as intended? Are entities meeting commitments and expectations?
- Status and trends: What is the condition of Puget Sound ecosystem? What are the threats? How are condition and threats changing?
- Effectiveness: How effective are actions and strategies? Are actions and strategies delivering desired outcomes?
- Validation: How do ecosystem components interact? How do they respond to threats and management? What are the characteristics of a resilient, healthy ecosystem?

¹ Other elements of the strategic science program may include: continuation of PSAMP and/or other monitoring and modeling programs, recommendations for data collection and data management to facilitate easy access and use, and list of critical research needs.